



What You Need to Know Concerning Virginia's I/DD Waiver Redesign

Virginia is redesigning its Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waivers for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities (I/DD). Waivers provide certain medical and non-medical services to people residing in the community who would otherwise be required to live in an institution in order to receive those same services. The current waivers for persons with I/DD do not fully support the variety of needs of individuals who rely on these waiver services. Moreover, the three I/DD waivers, the *Intellectual Disability (ID)*, *Developmental Disabilities (DD)*, and *Day Supports Waivers*, were constructed and enhanced over time without a rigorous comparison of the costs of providing services to rates paid. The need for services has far outpaced available funding, and the system has been unable to adapt to the changing needs of individuals and new requirements, resulting in very long waiting lists for waiver services and a shortage of providers.

Virginia's families, advocates, self-advocates, providers, Community Services Boards and national experts have partnered with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) to modernize the Medicaid I/DD waiver system. The goal of the redesign is to add more flexibility and choice in services in the areas of community living, integrated day services, and employment, with funding available to support the level of supports needed. The new waivers are designed to meet the specific needs of persons with I/DD, with restructured payment and performance models, based on a sound methodology, to more equitably fund supports that are customized to individual needs.

- The **Community Living** waiver provides up to and including 24/7 services and supports for adults and some children with exceptional medical and/or behavioral support needs through licensed services. This includes residential supports and a full array of medical, behavioral, and non-medical supports.
- The **Family and Individual Supports** waiver provides supports for children and adults living with their families, friends, or in their own homes, including supports for those with some medical or behavioral needs.
- The **Building Independence** waiver provides supports for adults able to live independently in the community with housing subsidies and/or other types of support. The supports available in this waiver will be periodic or provided on a regular basis as needed.

An individual's base budget (supports budget) will be determined by where he lives and how he spends his day. The supports budget reflects the number of hours of basic supports to be provided, according to the individual's assessed needs. Services may be individualized within the assessed supports budget and services may be added to the base package with a demonstrated exceptional need. Provider rates are designed to encourage services being provided to smaller groups with more individualized support delivered in the community.

The current proposed timeline:

- In January 2016 the **Building Independence** waiver will be phased in.
- In March 2016 the **Family & Individual Supports** waiver and the **Community Living** waiver will be phased in.
- In July 2016, the new Group Home rate structure (daily billing vs. the current hourly billing) will become effective (residential rates will take effect at transition and other services will take effect based upon plan year).
- In October 2016, the transition of non-residential individuals (i.e., those living with family) will take effect.
- In January 2017, the new Sponsored Residential rate structure will take effect (residential rates will take effect at transition and other services will take effect by individual plan year).

For more information on the redesign of Virginia's HCBS waivers for persons with I/DD, please visit the DBHDS website at:

www.dbhds.virginia.gov/individuals-and-families/developmental-disabilities/my-life-my-community.